

NEW YORK CITY'S SLAVES

Growth of the Drug Habit Among All Classes.

METHODS EMPLOYED

Condition Demands Radical Action by Medical and Legislative Authorities—Cocaine Taking Prevalent Among Girls, Women and Negroes.

The narcotic habit is spreading faster than any other vice, and unless its insidious march can be checked it will not be long before it will outstrip whisky and gambling combined in the number of its victims, says the New York Press.

Opium, morphine and cocaine today have nearly fifty thousand abject slaves in New York city alone. There must be several times as many more who are as yet comparative beginners—those who are dallying with these drugs, taking their first steps along the poppy path that ends in the potter's field.

Many of these drug slaves had the foundations of the habit laid in the suffering of the sickroom. Pain can be driven away by morphine. Perhaps they have never taken the drug; but in their suffering they beg and scream for anything—anything to give them relief. The doctor, many times against his better judgment, yields, and unconsciously the patient gets a craving for the drug.

When the quantity of the opiate called for by the prescription is exhausted it is filled again. Perhaps the pain for which it was prescribed has disappeared, but this makes no difference to the weak-minded man or woman—he or she must taste again and again the sweet succor from care which is found only in the product of the poppy.

The "dope habit" is an evil that has permeated through every class of society, except, perhaps, that which earns its bread by manual labor and it is beginning to make its inroads on that. Brainworkers of all sorts, from the petty clerk in an office or factory up to the statesman, the lawyer or the great medical specialist, are its chief victims. There is not a business or a profession that is free from the taint, which is the more awful because it can be so long concealed.

No matter how much money a man or woman has left when it comes, the inevitable end is repulsively dreadful. Not one in a hundred of these narcotic victims has a penny in the world when death overtakes him. More meretricious than the most hardened highwayman the habit strips him, little by little, of everything that men hold dear—health, good name, will power, conscience, honesty, friends. It leaves nothing in the end but the shaking, palsied clay, covered with suppurating sores, which one would hardly recognize as a man except that it moved and spoke.

Contrary to the popular idea, comparatively few of the "dope fiends" smoke opium. For one thing it is expensive, and then the police are continually trying to break up the dens where the pipe is "hit." On the other hand, if one knows how, it is as easy to get morphine or cocaine as it is to buy bread, and no way has yet been devised to keep a man from eating morphine or injecting it hypodermically if he wants to.

As a general thing, among women especially, the first step is to get in the habit of sniffing a certain brand of catarrh powders which contain a large percentage of cocaine. In a little while these fail to satisfy the craving, and the victim begins to purchase the unadulterated drug. This is known in the argot of the "fiends" as "flake"; technically it is called "cocaine hypochloride; small crystals," and costs fifteen cents for one-sixteenth of an ounce. A phial two inches high and one inch in diameter contains this quantity. It makes the novice sneeze at first, and causes the nasal passages to smart as if a small quantity of pepper had been inhaled. Some people dissolve the crystals and spray the throat and nose through an atomizer. Either way the effect is said to be soothing to the nerves.

The cocaine habit is especially prevalent among girls and women of all classes, and also, strange to say, among negroes. With the latter the vice appears to have had its origin of late years in the South—probably in New Orleans or St. Louis, from whence it has spread everywhere. It seems to madden the negro and to destroy him more than the white man.

UNCLE SAM'S HOUSE CLEANING.

Good Results Therefrom As Seen by Justice Brewer.

There has been a good deal of disturbance in the body politic for the last year, and this condition is likely to continue. The nation is in the business of cleaning house. I have beaten many a carpet and I was always astonished that as long as I beat some dust would come out. This house-cleaning of Uncle Sam's is disturbing a good many. We have devoted ourselves to beautiful front yards and have neglected the back yards. Just at this time we are going into them with the purpose of making them as presentable as the front yards. We are trying to lift slum life to a better and happier condition. We are going to places usually unseen by the general public and saying that we want them as clean as the public places. We do not mean to have 30 to 40 per cent. poor alcohol in our patent medicines and we do not mean to buy opium in our soothing syrup if we know it. We want honesty and truth in the conduct and output of every factory and grocery.

A great many men will be unjustly condemned. It becomes every intelligent man not to accept a charge of crime as proof of guilt. Let every person have every constitutional and legal protection, and when he has been found guilty, God pity him, let him take the punishment.

A multitude of loud mouthed demagogues will attempt to ride into power on popular sentiment. When you find a demagogue, do not answer him, pass him by.

An objection that is made to our house-cleaning is that it interferes with prosperity and hurts business. It may cause a temporary embarrassment of prosperity, and some people may be disturbed, and some will ever build this country up like the assurance that whatever the foreigner wishes to buy or whatever bears the American stamp is just what it purports to be. The men who now complain would profit by the fullest investigation.

Troubled conditions have led many to say that we shall never more have peace here, and that the country is thoroughly rotten. At every exposure they say, "Oh, dear, Oh, dear, what a country." They believe that all honest men are gone and that the country has gone to what Dickens called the "demolition bowwows."

The great American people is not unsound. Before the war the South said that the North was composed of selfish shopkeepers and unpatriotic farmers who would never go to war, but when the grand old liberator heard the guns of Sumter and called for volunteers, you remember how the shops and farms resounded with "We are coming Father Abraham." Nothing could stay that wave. There may be those to-day who are looking at the golden calf and who respect the dollar more than the man, but among the plain people of the shops and farms a consecration to duty exists now and then. There are sculptors who are chiseling the commands "Thou shalt not steal" and "Thou shalt not bear false witness." When the time calls, again the people will rise and renew their allegiance to the great Jehovah. You can never make me believe that the heart of the American people is unsound. To-day I appeal to you as men and women of this great republic—do you repudiate impurity and corruption?

I want every individual man to feel that the future of the republic, for glory or for shame, for weal or for woe, depends on him alone, to say in imitation of the French king, "The republic—I am the republic." Then will peace, justice and righteousness prevail in every part of this land.

As I grow old, more profound becomes my convictions, regarding the future of the republic. While I am not blind to its wickedness and its failings, I believe that the Almighty has gathered between these two oceans 80,000,000 of people on whom rests a duty, the supreme obligation of the future, and that those people will be loyal to it and will continue to strive until Old Glory reflects as a banner of the stars, and tolling humanity the world overlooks on with thankfulness and gratitude.

The Czar's Horses. The Czar of Russia has four separate "services" of horses and carriages—the Russian, English, French and gala sets. Each set comprises at least fifty horses. The Russian set accompanies the Emperor wherever he goes, and at Gatchina it is used together with the English set. The gala and French horses and carriages are housed at St. Petersburg. In the winter palace stables. The Czar's gala turnout consists of fifty Hanoverian horses, which are perfectly white, with blue eyes.

Making Hollow Toys. By a secret method a London firm is able to make hollow lead soldiers. This greatly reduces the cost of production, and the trade in these toys, which once belonged almost exclusively to Germany, is now rapidly increasing in England. The weight of the hollow soldier is one-third of the solid.

THE DIPLOMATIC HOMES

Germany and France to Have Buildings.

RUSSIA LAGS BEHIND

One of the Few Great Powers That Have Never Acquired Property for Ambassadors' Buildings in Washington—First Embassy Established by British Government.

Washington's growth in diplomatic importance is attested in no way more emphatically than by the tendency of the foreign governments to purchase or erect magnificent headquarters here for embassy or legation purposes. The standard of excellence for such headquarters is constantly becoming higher.

It was back in the eighties that the first step in this direction was taken by the British government. A handsome building was erected on Connecticut Avenue. It has since been used as the headquarters for the British diplomatic colony in Washington, and is one of the interesting sights of the national capital always pointed out to the visitor. It has always been a center of activity in the social festivities of the diplomatic set. Since the British led the way about twenty legations and embassies have followed suit.

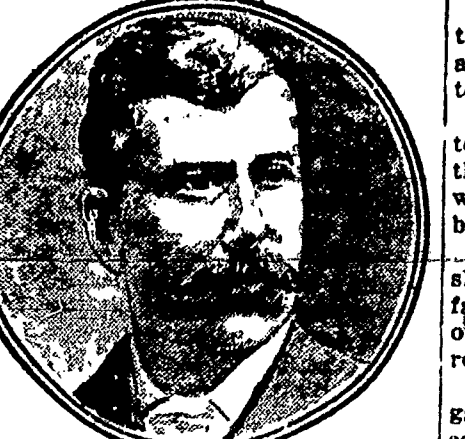
There have been many manifestations in recent years that Kaiser Wilhelm is concerned in having his country on as good a diplomatic footing at Washington as any of the powers. Now the German Government proposes to erect an embassy building of special design that will probably eclipse any of the other diplomatic establishments. Ground was recently bought for this building well out toward the suburbs in northwest Washington, in a beautiful locality. The cost of the building will approximate a quarter of a million.

France will not long be behind Germany. That country has a site which was purchased several years ago. It is located in the vicinity of the site recently bought by the German Government. Plans for a magnificent new embassy building were made soon after the purchase, but delay followed owing to the appointment of a new ambassador. Construction of the new French building will be begun in the course of the next year, according to advices here.

Norway had barely got a diplomatic representative established in Washington when it was announced the new kingdom had bought a piece of ground on Massachusetts Avenue, and that Minister Hauge had let the contract for a new legation. It will be one of the handsomest of the smaller legation buildings of Washington.

The Chinese Legation Building is well out in northwest Washington and was designed for its diplomats. It is of quaint but graceful design, and is in the midst of a neighborhood in which there are numerous beautiful homes. In elegance it surpasses decidedly the Japanese Embassy Building. The latter was originally a private residence. It is located on N Street, and was purchased some years ago by the Japanese.

Russia has never built an embassy structure here. During the regime of the Cossacks the Russians occupied an imposing place on Rhode Island Avenue that was formerly occupied by Vice-President Morton. Since Baron Rosen has become ambassador he has moved the embassy to a handsome residence on I Street, leased for embassy purposes. The Austro-Hungarian Embassy Building is on Connecticut Avenue near the British embassy and was purchased from the estate of Senator Gules of Florida.



Youngest Civil War Soldier.

The Pension Department officially confirms that Lyston D. Howe, of Streator, Ill., was the youngest Union soldier in the Civil War. He was ten years, nine months and eight days old when he first enlisted as drummer boy. In all he served more than four years.

The Preference of Carl Schurz. About a year before the late Carl Schurz died he was asked: "You have been in the United States Senate, at the head of a Cabinet department and editor of a great newspaper. Which position was most to your taste?" He answered: "The Senate—incomparably." No other man of foreign birth ever showed such fine command of the English language or used it so felicitously. A man who objected strongly to his politics but admired his talents as a writer once said: "I wish Mr. Schurz couldn't write so well; I could hate him better."

About 4,400 stags are killed annually on the Scottish moors.

NO "MILE A MINUTE" LIMIT

Electric Trains With Better Roadbeds the Need.

"There is no limit to the speed that may be developed in electric traction—that is, there is no limit up to 150 or 200 miles an hour. Higher speed than that the car wheels could not stand. They would fly to pieces from centrifugal force. Not only can a speed of 120 miles an hour be maintained on a train equipped with electricity, but in my opinion it is an entirely feasible scheme from the commercial point of view."

Thus spoke Professor Charles P. Steinmetz, one of the greatest authorities on electricity in the world. His remarks were called out by the publication in a Philadelphia newspaper of an article doubting if much higher speed could ever be used on the railroads than that which is attained now.

It was pointed out that the first cost would be enormous, entailing a high fare between cities, but more important was the question of signals. The article asserted that Mr. Westinghouse had demonstrated to his own satisfaction some years ago that a rate much in excess of fifty-five miles an hour cannot be maintained with safety, except at short intervals, because any known system of signals would be insufficient or ineffective for trains running at a maintained speed in excess of a mile a minute. The engineer, he said, could not see the signal in time to stop the train if it is going at a high rate of speed.

"I should say," said Prof. Steinmetz, "that it is largely a question of roadbeds, and that signals have little or nothing to do with it. Of course there is danger from high speed trains, and probably there also will be, but the tendency is not only to increase the speed but to make the railroads safer. This is illustrated by the gradual abolition of crossings at grade and the elimination of sharp curves. I presume that the time will come when grade crossings will be done away with entirely and the railroads so ballasted and straightened out that a speed of 120 to 150 miles an hour can be maintained."



Profitable Financing.

Without capital or backing, Samuel Byerley, a clerk in the employ of an express company in New York, bid for the new issue of Panama Bonds and was awarded the bonds, being the highest bidder. He transferred the bid to a syndicate at a profit of about \$20,000 and the whole expense to him was four cents in postage.

Marriage Superstitions. No other country has so many superstitions about marriage as China. The Chinese never marry within a hundred days after a death has taken place in the family of either the bride or groom; for if they do they believe domestic troubles are sure to follow.

There seems to be no reason for this belief, and the Chinese do not attempt to explain it, but are willing to let it go as an undisputed fact. A Chinese bride may be brought to the house of the groom while there is a coffin in the house, but not within one hundred days after it has been taken out.

If a bride breaks the heels of her shoe while she is going from her father to her husband's home, it is ominous of unhappiness to her new relations. A side of bacon and a piece of sugar are hung on the back of a bride's sedan chair as a peace-offering to evil spirits, and when she is dressing for the wedding ceremony she stands all the while in a round wicker basket.

When a bride is eating her last meal at the table of her father before going to live with her husband, she is allowed to consume only half a bowl of rice lest she be followed by continual scarcity in her new abode.

Prohibiting Lottery. Recent regulations in Turkey aim to abolish completely the sale within the Empire of foreign lottery tickets. Any receiver, seller, buyer or holder of a foreign lottery ticket is now liable to prosecution, incurring a fine of \$4.40 to \$13.20 for the first offence and \$13.20 to \$44 for a second conviction.

Scientists tell us that a fly has 10,000 hairs on each foot, by means of which they are able to walk on the ceiling.

The first strike to occur in this country was in 1803, when a number of dissatisfied sailors struck for an increase in pay.

LO! THE SKIRTED MILLER

Pennsylvania Has Woman Grain Grinder.

OWN HOUSE KEEPER

Flour and Meal and Buckwheat Flapjacks, Trouser-Mending and Millstone-Cutting the Diversion of Her Busy Life—Trade Thoroughly Mastered.

When Miss Lydia Landis, of Huff's Church, Reading, Pennsylvania, became the wife of Mahlon Reitnauer, of Bechtelsville, eight years ago, she and her husband took charge of the Red Mill of Bechtelsville and the farm adjoining. The property at that time needed repairs, and the farm was run down, which meant that a great deal of work naturally fell upon the shoulders of Mr. Reitnauer.

"What about the mill?" asked Reitnauer, one evening while "he pair were enjoying their supper."

"Oh, don't bother about that mill! If you will go to the farm work I will keep that mill in good trim and keep the water wheel spinning from morning to night!" was the reply.

"She not only said it, but she has kept her word, and ever since the Red Mill has been entirely in her hands during the busy summer season and half of the time during the cold winter days."

She rapidly acquired a thorough knowledge of everything pertaining to the grinding of grain, and during all this period she has been constantly improving on her product until to-day the "Reitnauer Red Mill flour" is known throughout the historic Palckner Swamp region. Her mill is a substantial brick structure, three stories high, and every floor is filled with the wheat and corn which the hundred or more farmers of the vicinity bring to have ground.

When the sturdy, broad-shouldered Pennsylvania German farmers arrive at the mill they are met by Mrs. Reitnauer. She is strong and muscular, too, and when she swings out the long rope to hoist the heavy sacks of grain to one of the upper floors she is equal to the occasion, and with one short twist of the rope she hurls the burden through the open doorway with great ease. She loosens the rope and pulls the bag to the hopper, and with another turn of her arms the open end of the sack is thrust half way into the hopper, and the task is completed. While she has everything conveniently arranged with pulleys, so that she need not shoulder the three-bushel sacks, she, however, is able to do it, and has on occasions hung a 120-pound sack of chop across her shoulders and carried it to a farmer's wagon.

She has mastered her work in every respect. She even does the millstones, chipping from twenty to thirty little furrows to an inch, a task which many male millers have great difficulty in accomplishing.

Singhalese Superstitions. The Singhalese say that a child whimpers in its sleep when the angels tell it that its father is dead, because it has never seen its father; but it smiles incredulously when told that its mother is dead, because she gave it milk only a short time before. When a Singhalese hiccoughs he holds his breath while he repeats seven times: "Hiccough and I went to Galle; he stayed there; and I returned."

A bat in the house is a sign that it will be a disaster. When a dog yelps or scratches away the ear of a child or a woman, it is a sign that death or illness is impending to one of the family.

It is lucky to eat with the head resting on a hand; to strike the dining plate with a finger. To eat standing will bring on elephantiasis. If a man eats burnt rice he will have a beard on one side of his face only. One must not raise a forefinger while eating; that would be to chide the food and cause it to work ill to the diner. Even the finest delicacy eaten in the presence of a stranger will bring evil consequences if it is not shared with him. If anyone talks while grain is being put into a pot for cooking it will not swell. When a child yawns it is a sign that its stomach is not yet full. It is auspicious to eat facing the east. There are a few of the superstitions that hem in the dining table.

The Land of Song. Germany is indeed the land of music. To be at one with the soul of music, one must go to the beautiful land of the Rhine. For music is of the very life of the people. These people have called forth the great masters of sound. They have called forth men of genius who have woven the strange and mighty tone pictures that thrill the world. They have evoked Bach, Handel, Mozart, and the mighty Beethoven. You hear music everywhere as you go along over this land of wide stretching plains and forests and noble rivers. Germany is a land of glorious and beautiful sound. And how fine it is to wander along, listening to hear the voices rising from the distance! A land of song! To this race has been entrusted the message that music holds for mankind. They have sent forth the glorious evangel of music.—London Daily Mail.

In 1864, from September to November, the United States shipped 187,473 pounds of apples and \$1,624 pounds of pears into Ireland.

MAXIMS OF MR. LANDIS

Which May Be of Service to Every Day Life.



Maxims of Mr. Landis.

"Any man can earn a dollar, but it takes a wise man to use it. That has been my motto from the very start of my business career."

"There is no such thing as the money curse. A good man cannot have too much money."

"If I had my life to live over again I would try just as hard to turn money over and over and over again, that it might do the most good to other men."

"The whole secret of success can be expressed in these words—hard work and economy."

"No one should allow himself anything really necessary. This is the real art of saving."

"The most essential requisite to a young man's success in life to my mind are industry, economy, perseverance and a desirable goal."

"Real charity is displayed without the blare of trumpets."

"A wealthy man does not work for himself alone."

"It isn't really the wealthy who make an ostentatious display. It's those who want others to think they're wealthy."

"It isn't the earning of money, but the keeping of it that counts."

"The verse from the nineteenth chapter of St. Luke is the little regarded by the young these days: 'Because thou hast been faithful in a very little, I have thee authorized over ten cities.'"

"Don't marry too young; that is a great error. And don't marry an extravagant woman with her head full of ridiculous notions."

"The trouble is that the wives of many men squander in gambling and other forms of dissipation the money their husbands give them for household expenses, and are compelled to resort to questionable methods to make up the deficit to their husbands. And out the state of affairs."

"The idle rich are no more vicious than the idle poor, but they are much more lacking in sympathy with one another."

Stuttering. Of the etymology of stuttering we know nothing definite, says the latest. Direct inheritance is rare, and possibly imitation is the cause when father and son are alike. There is usually a well marked otic inheritance, others in the family having various forms of speech defects. But it is very difficult to trace the exact cause of stuttering, and it is usually a family trait.

Paralysis frequently comes from a stroke of the brain, and after some weeks illness it causes to which the speech is frequently attributed by the patient. It is undoubtedly a local cause, children having been known to start the habit, but in charge of a stuttering maid. A friend of mine who was a tremendously fond of horses and was hardly to be kept out of the stable acquired a most obstinate stutter from the groom. And a woman is often met with a stutter as a predisposing cause. They tend to prevent the progress of the speech, and the patient should be removed to a preliminary measure. Although it must not be supposed that their removal will lead to a permanent cure of the stammer.

Miner That Panned Out. Many of the great mines of the West were developed by men who had comparatively little capital. The Aspen, which has yielded about \$25,000,000, gave its first output in 1867, and its first output was only \$5,000. In 1868 it produced \$100,000, and in 1869 it produced \$1,000,000. It was then that the great mine was discovered.

Manager of the Silver King. The manager of the Silver King, which has paid \$1,500,000 in dividends, says that it cost \$35,000 to develop the property on a paying basis. He says that the mine has nothing but silver and savings from them when they began to develop the mine. —Lafayette Weekly.

Distinguished Prince. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, a very distinguished ornithologist, has been elected a member of the Ornithological Society of America.

Since the State census of 1880, the number of persons in the United States has increased from 31,000,000 to 50,000,000.